

Peninsula to Test New Anti-Narcotics Program

By BURTON W. CHACE
County Supervisor

Thanks to the concern of a diligent citizens group and the foresight of a key county commission, a new approach is being taken in the continuing battle against narcotics.

On my motion, supervisors have approved funds and manpower to implement the new program immediately. In addition, funds have tentatively been approved for a

countywide program, as of July 1.

When the Peninsula Council for Youth first approached me seeking county assistance in their fight against narcotics, none of us realized the unique program which would develop out of our research and discussions.

THE PCY sought only funds for a full-time narcotics officer who would supplement local police activity. They've come out with a far more comprehensive program, one which may pave the way for an overhaul of techniques in the war on narcotics.

To give the Peninsula "hotbed" some immediate relief, supervisors approved \$3,700 and two staff positions so that the County Department of Community Services can be

on the job as of May 1. In addition, supervisors put \$96,147 in the 1968-69 preliminary budget so the program can be implemented countywide—including the Peninsula.

The action came following a recommendation by the County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission.

BY APPROVING the proposal, supervisors made available to the Peninsula the skills of experts in many fields. The brainpower of the County Health Department, Mental Health Commission, Board of Education, Probation Department, and the Sheriff's Department, as well as a special "on-the-job" staff, is at their disposal.

These departments will supplement the efforts of law

enforcement agencies. The plan is a significant step toward coordinating all the community battles against the growing narcotics problem into one massive assault.

The "front-line" troops on the Peninsula will be the Narcotics Information Service, a section of the Department of Community Services. Incidentally, I am considering having the NIS name changed to Narcotics Information Community Effort (NICE), so it will have a catchy title once word of the program spreads.

THE SERVICE has a professional staff which develops educational materials and programs warning of the dangers of narcotics and drugs. In addition, it employs six former narcotic

addicts who are highly motivated to help others avoid or overcome the problem.

These former addicts have compiled a fantastic record of "reaching" our young people as well as educators, professional people, employers, and even hard-core "users."

Young people today rebel at outmoded educational attempts which include scare tactics and misinformation. The realism of hearing the dangers of drug use from a former addict is making inroads in the battle on narcotics.

THE SERVICE has been used experimentally in problem areas for the past few years. The board's recent action is the first time it has been given consideration as

a major, countywide program. In addition to arranging programs, lectures, discussions, and preparing motion pictures and reading material, the service also maintains a "hot-line" which drug users may call if they want help.

A "common-sense" referral service is maintained so that callers can be sent to parties who can best help. Individual and family counseling also are provided, and educational materials will be prepared for elementary and secondary schools.

This outstanding program will go a long way toward satisfying the need to combat the growing narcotics problem on the Peninsula as well as other areas of the county.

Scout-O-Rama Plans Underway

Ticket sales for the 1968 Scout-O-Rama are now under way, according to Dr. Jack Crowther, general chairman for the event.

Hundreds of booths at the Scout-O-Rama will demonstrate everything from aircraft to whittlecraft.

In addition, special areas will be set aside for larger demonstrations. These include the Pioneering Area, where large projects such as monkey bridges will be built; Aqua Pool, where waterfront games and stunts will be continually featured; Little Theatre, where shows will be staged; Challenge Arena, where Scout troops and Cub packs will take on their fellow packs and troops in friendly competition; Indian Village, where continuous presentations of Indian life,

Scouts earn many prizes, awards selling Scout-O-Rama tickets including Dodge baseball tickets, official camping and personal equipment.

Tickets sell for \$1 with all proceeds directly benefitting the Boy Scout program. Crowther said the goal for the Los Angeles Area Council is to sell 125,000 tickets for this year's event.

Jazz Rhythms

Registrations are now being taken for a jazz dance class to begin Thursday at the Lomita Recreation Center, 24428 Eshelman Ave. The class will meet from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Adults and teenagers may attend. Fee is \$5 for the series.

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